



HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

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Entries open for the NHRC's second annual competition for short films on human rightspage 8

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From the Editor's Desk

During the month of May, 2016, there were several news stories on issues that directly or indirectly raised concerns on human rights. Most shocking among them were reports on the presence of cancer causing substances in breads— our most commonly consumed food. The Center for Science and Environment (CSE), an NGO, disclosed that in India, 84 per cent of 38 commonly available brands of pre-packaged bread, including pav and buns, contained cancer causing additives, potassium bromate or potassium iodate, which, when mixed in the flour, act as an oxidizing agent and allow higher rising of the dough. But, if the bread is not baked at a high temperature, a residual amount remains in the bread, which may be harmful.

Though the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, FSSAI has banned potassium bromate in breads now but why it persisted with its use for so long, even if in a very limited quantity, knowing, perhaps, well its consequences? The UK did away with it as early as in 1990. China, Canada, Brazil, Australia, Sri Lanka and New Zealand also banned its use in breads. Why it took to the CSE only to conduct this study on a variety of brands of this food of mass consumption and not either the FSSAI or the State Food Authorities, who are responsible for ensuring the safety of foods and thus, the health and life of the people? Let us see what the FSSAI does with potassium iodate now?

Be that as it may, it is high time that food safety norms, at least, for the most common processed foods of mass consumption are standardized, made transparent and regularly monitored in the country to stop the use of harmful chemicals in them. Sure enough, the country would do better without cancer causing substances than to see additions to the list of 1.45 million new cases of cancer already suspected during the current year as per the National Cancer Registry Data.

The two other prominent news stories, which touched human rights, were about the Supreme Court's decisions. The Apex Court's refusal to de-criminalize defamation became significant when it said that the Right to Free Speech cannot mean that a citizen can defame the other and that protection of reputation is a fundamental right and it is also a human right.

The other decision pertained to the Supreme Court's direction to the Government of Gujarat to pay relief to 238 victims of silicosis or their next of kin as recommended by the NHRC. The Court also directed the State of Madhya Pradesh to file affidavit on the steps taken for the rehabilitation of 304 people affected by the disease silicosis as pointed out by the NHRC in 2010.

The order is a clear message to all the States that they have to pro-actively engage themselves by having precautionary measures at all such places of vocations, which generate silica dust and ensure that silicosis affected persons and their families are duly taken care of as per the NHRC's guidelines, instead of living in denial mode about the existence of the diseased.

Workshop on elimination of bonded labour at Bengaluru

The National Human Rights Commission, NHRC organized a day long Workshop on 'Elimination of Bonded Labour' in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka in Bengaluru, Karnataka on the 13th May, 2016. NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan chaired the Workshop. Inaugurating it, he cited some discrepancies in the reports submitted by the State Authorities on Bonded Labour and said that many officers may not be aware of the legal provisions and the concerns of the Commission in this regard.



NHRC Member, Justice Shri D. Murugesan inaugurating the workshop.

Justice Murugesan said that the delay in taking timely action in rescue, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers would amount to violation of their human rights as the issue involved their right to life with dignity. He said that bonded labour system cannot be abolished without prosecuting the guilty of promoting this menace. He asked the police to maintain a strict vigil at railway stations and bus stops and keep an eye on every bulk booking of tickets from a rural place to stop migration of bonded labourers.

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The objective of the Workshop was to familiarize and sensitize the District Magistrates, Sub Divisional Magistrates, State Labour Officers and Members of Vigilance Committees, brick kilns, stone crushing and other related industries etc. with the process of identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers and the provisions of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and other related legislations.

Shri H.K. Patil, Minister, Department of Rural Development and Panchyati Raj, Shri P.T. Parameshwara Naik, Minister, Department of Labour, Government of Karnataka, Smt. Meera C. Saksena, Acting Chairperson, Karnataka State Human Rights Commission, Shri Arvind Jadhav, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Shri Om Prakash, Director General of Police, Karnataka, Additional Chief Secretaries of various departments, Principal Secretaries of the State Government, besides others, were present. NHRC's officers present on the occasion included, Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Director, Shri O.P. Vyas, Assistant Registrar(Law) and Shri S. K. Gauba, Section Officer (Bonded Labour Cell).

The National Human Rights Commission was asked by the Supreme Court of India in 1997 to get involved in the monitoring of the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. Therefore, the Commission,



A section of participants at the workshop.

in its endeavour to raise concerns on the continuance of bonded labour has been organising workshops to sensitize official machinery to work for its abolition in different parts of the country. It has organised 35 workshops on elimination of bonded labour so far.

Suo Motu Cognizance

The Commission took suo motu cognizance in 04 cases of alleged human rights violations reported by media during May, 2016 and issued notices to the concerned authorities for reports. Summaries of two of the cases are as follows:

Ragging in a NOIDA school

(16161/24/30/2016)

The media reported on the 11th May, 2016 that the two students of class XI, studying in Delhi Public School (DPS), NOIDA were beaten mercilessly by their 17 seniors for protesting against ragging and reporting the matter to the school authorities. Observing that the incident raises issue of serious violation of right to life and dignity of the young students, the Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police, Gautam Budh Nagar calling for reports.

The Commission has also observed that ragging has been banned in the educational institutions and certain guidelines on recommendations of the Raghvan Committee have been issued in this regard. The Supreme Court, while deciding the Civil Appeal No. 887 of 2009 has also referred to ragging as an ugly scar, which is required to be obliterated from the face of educational institutions.

Therefore, the school authorities are legally bound and responsible to ensure protection of students from the menace of ragging.

Rape and murder of a Dalit law student in Ernakulam

(231/11/3/2016-WC)

The media reported that a 29 year old Dalit law student was murdered after rape inside her home at Vattolippidi Canal Bund near Perumbavoor in District Ernakulam, Kerala. Her body, having at least 30 injuries, was found by her mother on Friday, the 29th April, 2016.

The Commission, on the basis of the media reports, has observed that the crime was so spine-chilling and gruesome that words fell short and expressing anguish and shock appeared meaningless and mere ritualistic. It is a matter of utmost concern that women's security is facing grave threat in spite of several measures taken in the recent times including amendment in the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Evidence Act.

The Commission has issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police, Government of Kerala as well as Superintendent of Police, Ernakulam Rural at Aluva calling for reports in the matter.

NHRC's spot enquiry

Following is the list of cases wherein spot enquiries were conducted by the Commission's officers:

Sl. No.	Case Number	Allegations	Date of visit
1.	3400/30/9/2012	Police atrocity.	6 th May, 2016
2.	1298/30/2/2014	Delay in registration of FIR and false implication.	2 nd week of May

Important Intervention

₹ 30 lakh recommended as relief in four cases of fake encounter in Assam

The National Human Rights Commission has found four cases of encounter as fake in Assam. These were carried out by the Assam Police along with the units of army and paramilitary forces in different parts of the State. Out of these, in three cases, the Commission has asked the Government of Assam to pay a sum of total ₹ 25 lakh as relief to the next of kin of the victims. In the fourth case, it has asked the Union Ministry of Defence to pay an amount of ₹ 5 lakh as relief.

In all these cases, neither the Government of Assam nor the Union Defence Ministry could convince the Commission, in response to its notices, that the encounters were genuine because the armed forces opened fire in self-defence when attacked by the alleged miscreants and suspected extremists.

The case number 80/3/14/08-09-ED related to the death of Piku Ali in police firing in District Nagaon on the 23rd July, 2008. The Commission recommended payment of ₹ 5 lakh as relief to Piku's family.

The case number 46/3/24/2011-ED related to the

death of Mriganka Hazarika and Himanshu Gogoi in police firing in Dispur, Guwahati on the night of 23rd February, 2011. The next of kin of both the victims have been recommended payment of ₹ 5 lakh each as relief.

The case number 217/3/16/2011-ED related to the death of Jwnwm Basumatary and Okhophat Basumatary in an encounter with police at Furoibari under Dekiajuli Police Station in Sonitpur District on the 22nd June, 2009. The next of kin of the two victims have been recommended to be paid ₹ 5 lakh each as relief.

In all these three cases, as above, the Commission has asked the Government of Assam through its Chief Secretary to pay the relief as recommended and submit the compliance report along with the proof of payment.

The Case number 210/3/16/2011-ED related to the death of Rojit Narzary @ Abram in an encounter with Assam Police and Assam Rifles in Sonitpur District on the 9th July, 2009. The Union Defence Ministry through its Secretary has been asked to pay Rs. 5 lakh to the next of kin of the victim.

Notices to Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary and DGP over alleged violation of human rights in political rallies

The National Human Rights Commission has taken cognizance of a complaint that in poll bound Tamil Nadu, several people were gathered and forced to sit in the open under the scorching Sun to attend political rallies for four to five hours on the 11th, 15th and 20th April, 2016 in Cuddalore, Virudhunagar and Salem districts respectively. Allegedly, this happened despite the District Collectors' orders that public should not venture out from 11:00 a.m. to 04:00 p.m. due to scorching heat.

Allegedly, they were denied drinking water and other basic facilities leading to injuries and loss of lives. Many people fainted at Virudhuchalam rally in Cuddalore district, creating unrest and panic, which in turn, led to stampede in which 17 people were injured. Two persons died due to want of timely first aid. Another was seriously hurt in a stampede at Aruppukkottai in Virudhunagar district and eventually died, while two others died in Magudanchavadi in Salem. Allegedly, people were paid

₹300 over and above the wages under the MNREGA to participate in the meetings.

The Commission has observed that the allegations are serious and the incidents, if true, are indeed unfortunate. It has issued notices to the Chief Secretary and Director General of Police, Government of Tamil Nadu calling for detailed reports about the circumstances leading to the unfortunate incidents. The Commission has also directed them to take all necessary measures to

prevent reoccurrence of all such incidents in the future.

The Commission also said, "While the political parties, especially during the election period, have every right to organise public meetings, it is also the duty of the State/District Administration, while granting permissions for such meetings, to take all necessary steps considering the safety and security issues in mind." The repeated incidents, one after the other, pointed failure on part of the authorities.

₹ 3 lakh as relief to a gang rape victim; five police personnel arrested and dismissed from service

On the intervention of the National Human Rights Commission, NHRC the Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh has paid ₹ 3 lakh as relief to the victim who was gang raped by five constables in Chandigarh Police. All the five accused were arrested and dismissed from service.

In response to the notices of the Commission, it was confirmed that a girl student of class X had been subjected to gang rape by five police personnel for two months. The Commission was also informed that an FIR No. 507 under Section 341, 354, 376, 376(D), 34 IPC and 6 of POCSO Act, 2013 had been registered in police station -11, Chandigarh. The Commission had registered the case on the basis of a complaint on the 24th December, 2013.

Recommendations for relief

Apart from the large number of cases taken up daily by individual Members, 70 cases were considered during 04 sittings of the Full Commission and 189 cases were taken up during 11 sittings of Divisional Benches in May, 2016.

On 45 cases, listed in the table below, the Commission recommended monetary relief amounting to a total of ₹ 80.75 lakh for the victims or their next of kin, where it found that public servants had either violated human rights or been negligent in protecting them.

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	801/33/1/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
2.	10704/7/3/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
3.	6040/7/10/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
4.	1822/13/3/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
5.	21939/24/48/2011-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
6.	3241/24/48/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
7.	606/25/10/2010-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of West Bengal
8.	79/25/5/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of West Bengal
9.	4137/18/3/2014-JCD	Custodial death (judicial)	One lakh	Government of Odisha
10.	1482/22/11/2013-JCD	Custodial death (judicial)	Five lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
11.	5832/7/6/2012-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Haryana
12.	1260/13/19/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
13.	1734/13/4/2010-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Maharashtra
14.	19697/24/15/2011-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
15.	998/34/2004-2005-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	Five lakh	Government of Jharkhand
16.	1049/18/28/2013-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	Fifty thousand	Government of Odisha
17.	6383/24/24/2011-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
18.	2544/7/12/2015	Inaction by the State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh	Government of Haryana

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
19.	1194/34/11/2011	Inaction by the State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	Five lakh	Government of Jharkhand
20.	353/12/54/2012	Inaction by the State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh twenty five thousand	Government of Madhya Pradesh
21.	1475/18/7/2013	Inaction by the State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh fifty thousand	Government of Odisha
22.	2845/18/7/2014	Inaction by the State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	One lakh forty thousand	Government of Odisha
23.	3833/18/5/2013	Inaction by the State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	Fifty thousand	Government of Odisha
24.	14789/24/39/2011	Inaction by the State Government/ Central Govt. Officials	Twenty Five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
25.	2064/7/15/2015	Abuse of Power	Twenty five thousand	Government of Haryana
26.	370/34/2/2013	Abuse of Power	Ten thousand	Government of Jharkhand
27.	11122/24/22/2014	Abuse of Power	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
28.	1365/4/4/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Ten thousand	Government of Bihar
29.	12021/24/46/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
30.	25145/24/39/2013	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
31.	31603/24/7/2014	Failure in taking lawful action	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
32.	11/14/2/09-10-PF	Alleged fake encounter (P-M forces)	Ten lakh	Government of Manipur
33.	4/14/0/09-10-AFE	Alleged fake encounters	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
34.	7294/30/1/2013	Irregularities in Govt. hospitals/ primary health centers	One lakh	Government of Delhi
35.	344/20/24/2014	Irregularities in jail	Fifty thousand	Government of Rajasthan
36.	618/24/35/2013-WC	Abduction, rape and murder	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
37.	21607/24/20/2013-WC	Abduction, rape and murder	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
38.	545/13/6/2013-WC	Rape	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
39.	1333/24/7/2015-PCR	Custodial rape (Police)	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
40.	192/18/12/2014	Children	Twenty thousand	Government of Odisha
41.	586/20/6/2013	Children	Three lakh fifty thousand	Government of Rajasthan
42.	18424/24/50/2014	Non-payment of pension or compensation	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
43.	32377/24/75/2014	Custodial torture	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
44.	35010/24/15/2013	Unlawful detention	Fifty thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
45.	220/13/30/08-09-ED	Death in police encounter	Five lakh	Government of Maharashtra

Compliance with NHRC recommendations

In May, 2016, the Commission closed 62 cases out of which compliance reports were received in 50 cases from different public authorities, furnishing proof of payments it had recommended, totalling ₹ 119.40 lakh to the victims of human rights violations or their next of kin. Details are in the table below:

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
1.	271/33/5/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
2.	860/33/14/2013-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Chhattisgarh
3.	663/34/19/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Jharkhand
4.	3699/13/3/2012-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	One lakh	Government of Maharashtra
5.	1314/24/64/2014-JCD	Custodial Death (Judicial)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
6.	249/7/2002-2003-CD	Custodial Death (Police)	Fifty thousand	Government of Haryana
7.	1445/34/4/2010-PCD	Custodial Death (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Jharkhand
8.	188/13/2005-2006-CD	Custodial Death (Police)	Two lakh	Government of Maharashtra
9.	34/15/97-98-CD	Custodial Death (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Meghalaya

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
10.	*16/14/14/2012-ED	Death in Encounter (Police)	Ten lakh	Government of Manipur
11.	*19/14/15/2012-ED	Death in Encounter (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
12.	*20/14/14/2012-ED	Death in Encounter (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
13.	*5/14/4/2011-ED	Death in Encounter (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
14.	*10/14/10/2010-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounters	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
15.	*11/14/4/2010-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounters	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
16.	*20/14/4/2010-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounters	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
17.	*21/14/12/08-09-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounters	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
18.	*21/14/12/2010-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounters	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
19.	*6/14/4/2010-AFE	Alleged Fake Encounters	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
20.	*20/14/4/08-09-PF	Death in Encounter	Ten lakh	Government of Manipur
21.	*31/14/12/07-08-PF	Death in Encounter	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
22.	141/3/17/2013-ED	Death in Encounter (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Assam
23.	303/34/16/2011-ED	Death in Encounter (Police)	Ten lakh	Government of Jharkhand
24.	11898/24/31/2010-ED	Death in Encounter (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
25.	12969/24/2002-2003	Death in Encounter (Police)	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
26.	658/13/30/2010-ED	Death in Encounter (Police)	Five lakh	Government of Maharashtra
27.	142/3/5/2011	Unlawful Detention	Twenty thousand	Government of Assam
28.	292/22/16/09-10	Unlawful Detention	One lakh	Government of Tamil Nadu
29.	6798/24/31/2012	Unlawful Detention	Fifteen thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
30.	24/464/95-LD	Unlawful Detention	Ten lakh	Government of Uttarakhand
31.	1862/4/23/2013	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	Twenty five thousand	Government of Bihar
32.	13538/24/63/2013	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
33.	24/6880/96-LD	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	Five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
34.	39410/24/61/09-10	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
35.	45315/24/18/2013	Failure in Taking Lawful Action	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
36.	2522/18/5/2013	Inaction by the State/Central Government Officials	Two lakh	Government of Odisha
37.	4369/18/3/2013	Inaction by the State/Central Government Officials	Fifty thousand	Government of Odisha
38.	43952/24/3/2012	Inaction by the State/Central Government Officials	Three lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
39.	12/528/96-LD	Police	Ten thousand	Government of Madhya Pradesh
40.	24/1843/96-LD	Police	One lakh twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
41.	24/4623/96-LD	Police	Ten lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
42.	24/1660/95-LD	Police	One lakh	Government of Uttarakhand
43.	2314/4/1999-2000	Victimisation	Four lakh	Government of Jharkhand
44.	354/25/13/2011-PF	Victimisation	Five lakh	Government of West Bengal
45.	42925/24/14/2011	Abuse of Power	Ten thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
46.	5897/24/98-99	Abuse of Power	Five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
47.	5701/30/4/2014	Children	Ten thousand	Government of Delhi
48.	1962/18/12/2013	Children	Three lakh	Government of Odisha
49.	24/5851/96-LD	Illegal Arrest	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
50.	6083/24/31/2014	Illegal Arrest	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
51.	1062/12/2/2013	False Implications	Three lakh	Government of Madhya Pradesh
52.	29872/24/15/2012	False Implications	Twenty five thousand	Government of Uttar Pradesh
53.	41117/24/7/2011-WC	Abduction, rape and murder	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
54.	35004/24/60/2013-WC	Abduction, rape and murder	One lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh
55.	4/547/95-LD	Miscellaneous	Sixty Thousand	Government of Bihar

Sl. No.	Case Number	Nature of Complaint	Amount Recommended (in ₹)	Public Authority
56.	1038/34/4/2012-AD	Alleged custodial deaths in police custody	Two lakh	Government of Jharkhand
57.	165/34/4/09-10	Trouble by anti-social elements	Fifty thousand	Government of Jharkhand
58.	53/14/4/07-08	Death in police firing	Five lakh	Government of Manipur
59.	67/32/0/2014-WC	Immoral trafficking of women	Four lakh	Government of Puducherry
60.	19/286/95-LD	Non-payment of pension or compensation	Fifty thousand	Government of Punjab
61.	4/23/0/2014	Exploitation of children	Seventy thousand	Government of Tripura
62.	11772/24/69/2011-WC	Indignity of women	Nine lakh	Government of Uttar Pradesh

**The Supreme Court has upheld the NHRC's recommendation for payment of monetary relief in the encounter cases of Manipur. The Orders of the Supreme Court are binding on the State of Manipur, hence, the Commission has closed the cases. However, the amount has not been included in the total relief paid by different States, in compliance of NHRC's recommendations, as the proof of payment is not available with the Commission unlike in other cases.*

Core Group on Bonded Labour

The National Human Rights Commission has re-constituted its Core Group on Bonded Labour with 12 nominated members. They include senior government functionaries from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, V. V. Giri National Labour Institute, Regional Labour Commissioner, Central, domain experts, representatives of civil societies and NGOs. The Core Group will help the Commission in reviewing existing Government policies,

laws, rules, orders etc concerning the bonded labour system and make an assessment of current status of enforcement of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 in different States/Union Territories to identify any gaps in the policy framework and its implementation and give recommendations. The Group will meet periodically at regular intervals or as and when deemed necessary.

NHRC's 'Summer Internship Programme' begins

The National Human Rights Commission's much sought after one month long 'Summer Internship Programme' on human rights issues for university and college students began in New Delhi on the 23rd May, 2016. Out of a large number of applications received for the

During the internship, the students are addressed by experts in the field through lectures and discussions. They are exposed to various practical aspects relating to human rights in the working of police, prisons etc. They also work on research projects on different human rights subjects.

The outstation students are provided to and fro railway fare for attending the internship programme. In addition to this, they are also provided a stipend of ₹ 8,000/- for the programme. Students from Delhi and



NHRC Joint Secretary (T&R), Shri J.S. Kochcher addressing the inaugural session of the Internship.

internship, fifty post-graduate level students from different parts of the country were shortlisted to attend this programme so as to give representation to all States. The aim of the internship is to increase awareness about human rights among the students and sensitise them on various related issues.



A section of interns

NCR region are provided a stipend of Rs. 4,000/- each. At the end of the programme, the best interns are awarded a total cash prize of ₹ 15,000/-.

The Commission organizes a month long winter internship programme also every year and over the years,

hundreds of students have benefitted from these internship programmes.

Entries open for the NHRC's second annual competition for short films on human rights

The National Human Rights Commission has opened the entries for its second annual competition for short films on human rights after a good response to its inaugural run last year. The entries received after the 16th August, 2016 will not be entertained.

The award carries a certificate along with prize money of ₹1 lakh, ₹75 thousand and ₹50 thousand for the best first, second and third film respectively.

The aim of the award scheme is to encourage and acknowledge cinematic and creative efforts of the Indian citizens, irrespective of their age, towards the promotion and protection of human rights.

The short films may be in any Indian language with sub-titles in English or in English. Duration of the short film should not be less than 5 minutes or more than 10 minutes. The films may be made in any technical format.

The themes of short films, having a tinge of rights perspective, could be broadly-based on various socio-

economic, cultural and political rights. These may be within the ambit of right to life, liberty, equality and dignity and raising concerns on issues, specific, among others, to bonded and child labour, women & children, elderly persons, differently abled persons, healthcare, food, education, custodial violence and torture, domestic violence, clean environment, indigenous people, displacement, food and nutrition securities, issues of fundamental freedoms, human trafficking etc.

The short films may also be educative on the challenges facing promotion and protection of human rights and ways out for redressal of grievances relating to violation of human rights.

There is no bar on number of films sent by an individual for participation in the contest. More detailed information can be accessed from the Notice Board on the website of the Commission, www.nhrc.nic.in. For any further queries, the Deputy Director (Media & Communication), NHRC can also be contacted.

Other important visits/seminars/programmes/conferences

Events	Delegation from NHRC
'Southern Regional Consultation for Third Universal Periodic Review' at National Law School of India University, Bangalore, Karnataka from the 11 th to 13 th May, 2016	Shri S. C. Sinha, Member and Shri J. S. Kochher, Joint Secretary (T&R)

Complaints received/processed in May, 2016 (As per an early estimate)

Number of fresh complaints received in the Commission	9203
Number of cases disposed of including fresh and old	11065
Number of cases under consideration of the Commission including fresh and old	37895

Important Telephone Numbers of the Commission:

Facilitation Centre (Madad) : 011-2465 1330
For Complaints : Fax No. 011-2465 1332

Other Important E-mail Addresses

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